



GEMS Honours Programme



Sample Lesson Plan



GEMS Honours Programme

Sepere Aude (Dare to Know)

The GEMS Honours programme is a distinctive and exclusive programme certified by GEMS designed to integrate the study of arts, science, and philosophy. Through cross-curricular activities, field trips, and blended learning, the curriculum is meant to prepare a select group of motivated, more-able, high-functioning students in upper high school to be leaders, critical thinkers, innovators, and inter-disciplinary problem solvers. This GEMS programme affords a distinct advantage to students when applying for Honours and Scholarship programmes in major universities around the world. Students selected to be in the programme will be given the opportunity to engage with texts and study areas of knowledge that are not part of the regular high school curriculum. The programme allows for conversations to move outside the classroom, to shared experiences in museums, theatres, galleries, and also on national radio and international media and educational platforms.



Module 1

The Golden Ages of Ancient Greece & Arabic Science

The Golden age of Greece was a 200-year period in Greek culture lasting from the 5th through 4th centuries B.C. This classical period had a powerful influence on the Roman Empire and greatly influenced the foundations of Western Civilization. Much of modern Western politics, artistic thought, such as architecture, scientific thought, literature, and philosophy derives from this period of Greek history.¹

The 7th to 12th centuries A.D. are considered the Golden Age of Arabic Science. This period saw a strong interest in assimilating scientific knowledge and a flourishing of the arts and architecture. The capital cities of Baghdad, Cairo, and Córdoba became the main intellectual centers for science, philosophy, medicine, and education.



¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_Greece

Module 1: Lesson 1

The Golden Age of Ancient Greece

Pre-lesson Prep | Home learning

Read About

- Classical Greece
- The Life and Death of Socrates

Watch

[Greece: Golden Age](#) | History Channel

Think

- What distinguished the Greeks from other civilisations of the time?
- What were some of the features of Greek Art and Literature of the time?
- How were the priorities of Athens and Sparta different?
- What was so great about Socrates and why was he a threat to the State?

Cross-curricular
LINKS:

History

Philosophy

Culture Studies



Module 1: Lesson 1

Lesson Objective:

- To evaluate the impact that Ancient Greece had on Western Civilisation
- To analyse the life of Socrates and discuss his relevance today.

Energiser: Survival of the fittest

Starter Activity: Odd one out

Intro Video: [This is Classical Greece](#)

Activity 1: Group Presentations (7 min research time | 7 min. prep | 2 min. presentation time per group)

Group 1: Socrates

Group 2: Pericles

Group 3: Hippocrates

Group 4: Sophocles

Group 5: Athena

Activity 2: Mini Debate (15 min.)

Motion: The House believes that the Athenian way of life was superior to the Spartans

Activity 3: Group Discussion – The Impact of Socrates (25 min.)

- The Socratic Method
- Socrates' death
- "The unexamined life is not worth living."
- Socratic Irony

Plenary: Taboo

Discuss the key learning points from the lesson but refrain from using the following taboo words:

Socrates, Golden Age, Greece

Reflection-blog (For online Portfolio)

Socrates was executed for questioning. How important is it to seek answers instead of accepting answers blindly.

Extension Work (For online Portfolio)

Create a 2 minute video trailer that highlights the reasons why Socrates was such an important figure in human thought.

Cross-curricular
LINKS:

History

Philosophy

Culture Studies

Skills:

Presentation

Debating

Discussion

Critical Thinking

Research

Intelligences:

Linguistic

Existential

Interpersonal

Intrapersonal

Learning Styles

Visual

Aural

Kinaesthetic



Module 1: Lesson 2

The Golden Age of Arabic Science

Pre-lesson Prep | Home learning

Read About

- Reviews of Jim Al Khalili's *Pathfinders*
- The Life and Death of Socrates

Watch

[Science and the Arabic World](#) | BBC

Think

- What were the reasons for the great leap in scientific knowledge that took place in the Islamic world between the 8th and 14th centuries?
- What legacy has this age left on modern society?
- Who were some of the great scientists, inventors, and discoverers of this age?

Cross-curricular
LINKS:

History

Philosophy

Culture Studies



Module 1: Lesson 2

Lesson Objective:

- To evaluate the impact that Golden Age of Arabic Science has had on the modern world.
- To analyse the life of Al Khwarizmi, Al Biruni, and Ibn al-Haytham and discuss his relevance today.

Energiser: EarthQuake | Eviction

Starter Activity: Arrange in order of importance

Arrange these words in order of importance and justify: Art | Mathematics | Physics | Astronomy | Architecture | Medicine

Intro Video: [Naming rights in the Arabic Golden Age](#)

Activity 1: Radio Ad | Infomercial | Research

Divide the class into 5 groups. Assign one inventor/explorer/discoverer to each group. Students use the musical instruments provided to create a jingle and an infomercial about that person:

Al Khwarizmi
Al Biruni
Ibn al-Haytham
Ibn Batutta
Al Hambra

Activity 2: Radio Ad | Infomercial | Presentation

Each group gets 5 minutes to present their radio ad to the rest of the class using the musical instruments available

Plenary: Triads: Group Discussion (15 min.)

How important is to encourage free thought and exchange of ideas for a society to be innovative, creative, and prosperous

Reflection-blog (For online Portfolio)

If science could find a way to transplant your brain into the body of someone named John, would you then be you or John?

Extension Work (For online Portfolio)

Write a 300-word blurb for Jim Al Khalili's book *Pathfinders*

Cross-curricular
LINKS:

History

Philosophy

Culture Studies

Skills:

Presentation

Discussion

Critical Thinking

Research

Intelligences:

Linguistic

Existential

Interpersonal

Intrapersonal

Learning Styles

Visual

Aural

Kinaesthetic

